

The Weekly Chronicle.

RULE & RICKS, Publishers,
Number 19 Market Place, East Side.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One copy, one year, \$2.00
One copy, six months, 1.00
Ten copies, one year, 15.00
Twenty copies, one year, 30.00

WEDNESDAY... DECEMBER 12, 1872.

AN EASY WAY TO MAKE MONEY.

The very liberal premiums offered for subscribers to the WEEKLY CHRONICLE offer an opportunity to our friends to render us a very valuable service and to benefit themselves at the same time. A good paper is needed in every family. Its markets and agricultural items are worth far more than the price of the paper to the farmer. Its news items are valuable to every class of readers. It teaches children how to read quicker than the school teacher. The CHRONICLE costs less than three cents a week. The poorest man can certainly afford to pay that much for so much good reading. People complain of hard times, but to stop the newspaper is the last expense that ought to be cut off.

Reader look over our premiums in another column and go to work for one of them. A beautiful picture will be a valuable Christmas gift. There are a great many valuable premiums offered. Now is the time to get subscribers. Start out right for 1873. Help circulate the CHRONICLE and you will be doing a good work.

An effort is being made to raise sufficient funds to pay an artist to make a statue of Stonewall Jackson.

THE *Courier-Journal* is indignant because certain journals in this State insist that it knows nothing about Tennessee politics.

THE precarious condition of Joe Jefferson's eyesight will prevent his favoring the public with his inimitable play, *Rip Van Winkle*, this winter.

THE constitutional amendment now under consideration in both Houses of Congress provides that Presidents and Vice Presidents are to be chosen by the people and shall hold their positions for the term of six years.

THE Nashville *Banner* says there are about twenty-five Senators who are candidates for Speaker of the Senate and about seventy-five in the House candidates for Speaker of that body. If they all hold their own there will be a tie vote on the first ballot.

WILL not some good friend of public schools and better public roads, in each district, make it his business to see that the petitions printed in this issue of the CHRONICLE are copied off on paper and circulated for signatures? Now is the time for friends of these measures to work. Send on petitions to Nashville, so that our legislators may know what public opinion is.

It is now pretty well settled that the *Tribune* Association has tendered Vice President Colfax the editorial chair made vacant by Mr. Greeley's death. It seems from the statements of those in position to know, that a tempting offer has been made in the shape of a salary, and that Mr. Colfax is seriously considering the proposition. It would be a great help to the *Tribune*, should he accept, and the stockholders could well afford to pay him any price he would ask.

ON Monday morning two irate individuals went into the office of a *Seranton* (Pa.) paper, and after soundly caning the editor proceeded to upset several cases of type, knock down imposing stones and throw things into "pi" generally. The provocation, was a slanderous publication on the day previous relative to the wife of one of the parties. We do not favor a resort to such measures as this, but if there is ever a time when one is justifiable in taking the law into his own hands, it is when a brutal editor makes an assault upon female character. Nothing else will exercise so salutary an influence on such fellows as a castigation administered on their person.

THE subject of equalizing tax assessments on property in Tennessee has been productive of much discussion and as yet, no remedy has been secured for existing evils. It is the source from whence the greatest hardships connected with the public revenue originate, and until some relief is obtained it will always afford just grounds of complaint. If any one will take the trouble to examine the books of the Revenue Collector for the county, he will find an inequality of assessments never thought of, unless he has had occasion to examine before. It is an evil which calls for legislation, and we trust that the Legislature which meets at Nashville on the first Monday in next month, will give the matter some careful attention. While every man is taxed in proportion to the value of his property, no one will complain, but A does not care to have his property assessed at its full cash value, while his neighbor, B, pays tax on less than three-fourths of the value of his, estimated on the same basis.

"STERILE AGITATION."

In one of the last editorials Mr. Greeley wrote for the *Tribune*, he used the following language: "The South must live; and she cannot live on sterile agitation." In making this remark, the great journalist showed that he had studied the wants of the Southern people, and that he knew one of the fruitful sources of their troubles. It has always remained a problem to those who have never exercised their minds for its solution, why the Southern people, so highly favored with a profusion of nature's bountiful gifts, should fall so far behind their Northern brethren, upon whom these gifts have not been so lavishly bestowed. We honestly believe that the thought so forcibly expressed by Mr. Greeley tells the whole story. We have attempted to live on "sterile agitation" of political questions which we ought to have known were settled. For more than a quarter of a century the great question and almost the only question discussed in the South was the relation of the African to the white race. Political leaders sought for a long time to convince us that slavery was a divine institution and would consequently be perpetuated. Not only did avowed political leaders attempt to palm off this absurd doctrine upon us, but theologians—men who exercised the sacred functions of the ministry, used to desecrate their pulpits by trying to prove from God's word, that He had ordained the institution of slavery. When the slaveholder's rebellion was agitated, these men openly proclaimed that God was on the side of the South, and with solemn mockery sent forth sacrilegious petitions for pestilence and the sword to scatter and humble the hordes of Lincolnites who were penetrating the Southern country, carrying with them the stars and stripes, the then hated emblem of "Yankee" domination. All this agitation was commenced and kept up for the purpose of more thoroughly "firing the Southern heart." Who will say now that such agitation was not worse than sterile to the Southern people?

The close of the war found those lately in bondage released from the shackles of slavery. The people of the North could see no other way of treating them under our form of government than to make them citizens, with all the rights and privileges of freemen. The minds of the Southern people were fearfully agitated by their leaders and the fought negro citizenship—negro enfranchisement—to the bitter end. But it was unfruitful as usual, for by the logic of events, they were forced to acquiesce.

Now, how much better it will be for the people of the South, if they will only accept the situation and accommodate themselves to the new order of things, go to work to build up the country. The negro is a citizen; why not give him all the aid necessary to render him a wise and good citizen, instead of frowning upon him always and keeping him down as far as possible? We believe this to be the disposition of a large majority of the Southern people, if their impracticable, selfish leaders will only let them alone. The Southern people are naturally kind, generous and hospitable, and it will be much more natural for them if they are allowed to forget the prejudices of the past, to exercise these noble attributes of their nature towards the colored race than otherwise. But while we have leading and influential newspapers, advising the people to cease giving employment to colored laborers, because they have voted for Grant, we may expect to see the results of this sterile agitation. Capital will shun us—immigration will pass by us—our cotton and corn fields will remain measurably unproductive and our minerals will remain undeveloped.

We hear a great deal from certain quarters about proscription and persecution of the South, but the fact is, the South has never been so fearfully persecuted from any other source as by some of her own people. These narrow-minded, hide-bound leaders, who never entertained a generous sentiment toward a political opponent, and whose whole life is wrapped up in self; these agitators, would force the people to believe that which is palpably untrue, in order that they might maintain a little cheap notoriety by such "sterile agitation." The sooner the people of the South turn their backs upon all such talk, the better will it be for us.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Lively times are anticipated upon the meeting of the Tennessee Legislature on the first of next month. Numerous gentlemen have intimated a desire to serve the State in the various offices to be filled by that body. The process by which the Isham G. Harris wing of the late Democratic party expects to whip the recalcitrant Johnson men into supporting the orthodox military ring, will be interesting. For some time past the leaders of "organization" have manifested doubt as to the best course to pursue under the circumstances. One day they breathe forth threats, and crack the party whip right lively over these apostates from the true faith. Finding that their subjects view such a proceeding with provoking coolness, they change their tactics and, with tears and entreaties, exclaim, "Return, Oh wanderer, return!" Thus far tears and threatenings have produced little or no visible effect. The

meeting of the Legislature will prove a crisis in the affairs of those who are pleading so earnestly for "organization," and for this reason, it will be looked forward to with interest.

We trust and believe that when the Legislature does meet that such questions will be speedily settled, and that our law-makers will promptly proceed to the important business which will come before them. The people care a great deal less about who is to hold the offices than they do about the settlement of vital issues in which the State is interested. They expect the next Legislature to act, not for the special benefit of any political party, but for the welfare of the commonwealth. Let good men be selected for the various positions, and then let us have a public policy inaugurated that will add something to our material prosperity.

PEACE TRIBUNALS.

Secretary Fish, in a friendly letter to Justice Nelson on his retirement from the Supreme Court of the United States, refers to the results attending the international arbitration at Geneva, "which has given peace to two nations whose passions it has calmed." The satisfactory results attending this international peace tribunal suggests the inquiry why other nations can not arbitrate their differences in the same way. The tribunal having authority to decide disputes between nations once established, such differences between them can be settled as well peacefully as by force. Why should it not be so? If our civilization has made the progress of which we boast, why is it that two powerful nations will deliberately sacrifice upon the battlefield the lives of half a million of brave men over a difference which when examined really amounts to nothing! So long as the sentiment of mankind encourages such wars we will continue to have them and so long as they are probable, nations hemmed about by rival powers will find their own protection demands that largestanding armies should be maintained. Look at the States of Europe, and what are they but a vast camp of trained soldiers. How much of the labor and wealth of Germany and France is now being expended in preparations for the war that must again sooner or later follow the present policy of the Governments of the Eastern Continent? The military laws of both nations are sweeping in their exactions. It takes for years the best young men from the industries of the people and appropriates their best years to piling up misery and wrath for the battlefields to come. If the destructive character of the modern engine of war is improved much more, the battlefields of the future will number their victims by the thousands, where they have heretofore by the hundreds. It may then become a matter for united effort on the part of the friends of mankind to create international organizations to exert to the utmost their influence against war.

The standing armies of Europe are enormous. If the labor and money expended in war preparations were directed to the building of industries to promote the public good, or to establishments in the interest of reform and charity, there would soon be less encouragement for nations to go to war, and a great advance made in the public morals and in the general prosperity of the people.

It appears that some of the prominent merchants of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other cities have purchased the Bay of Samana in San Domingo, which the Government lately refused to buy. The steamer Tybee that recently sailed from New York took out the money required by the Baez Government for a certain specified amount of territory, including the celebrated harbor named. One of the merchants interested, Mr. C. K. Garrison, in the purchase was recently interviewed in New York. Being asked what shape the project was in he said:

"We have raised the money demanded and sent it out in the Tybee, and will thus gain control of the port of Samana, the finest in the West Indies, and capable of holding the navies of the world."

"You will have special rights and privileges, I suppose—a sort of western 'East India Company'?"

"Well, we are paying out a great deal of money, and of course we are not giving it for nothing, but expect ample returns."

"Will not this first outlay need to be followed by other large expenditures for warehouses, &c?"

"We don't know much about what will come after. We shall move cautiously, and be governed by circumstances."

"Are only New York capitalists in the enterprise?"

"No; there are capitalists of Boston, Philadelphia, and other towns in the movement."

"It appears to be a legitimate transaction. I suppose that many of you have long had mercantile dealings with those regions?"

"Yes; I, for one, have been running steamers to those islands, and as far down as Brazil. I have no connection with the Administration, and it is a matter of business with us all."

"This is certainly a good way to settle a vexed question, and prevent further political controversy on the subject. But what is the condition of the island? Is there much industrial activity there?"

"There is a large export trade of coffee and other tropical products; but the point of the greatest importance will be the possession by Americans of such a fine port in the West Indies."

The *Gallatin Examiner* is in favor of the reelection of Dr. Wm. Morrow for State Treasurer, a position he now most worthily fills.

NO SOUND SLEEP FOR YEARS.

In a lecture delivered in New York by Rev. Mr. Talmage, on the life of Horace Greeley, the lecturer said: "Mr. Greeley told me ten days before his death that he had not enjoyed a sound sleep for fifteen years." In reference to this statement Mr. Talmage said: "Brethren of literary toil, we had better slow up—put down brakes. You who are going at a break-neck speed with the lightning express train at 60 miles an hour had better take the accommodation at 35 miles an hour. It is this night work that is killing our literary men. The brass heads of the coffin lid are made out of gas light."

Considering Mr. Greeley's temperate life and strong constitution, his death was certainly premature. But when we measure his years by the work he performed, he lived a full round life. But it is true, as Mr. Talmage says, the literary men of this age are working out their life by the midnight lamp. This is true of the journalists, especially of our large cities. But few men realize the wonderful amount of work they perform. Take the leading writer of a leading daily and at the end of a year measure the articles he has written and they would fill volumes. Much of his work is necessarily done under pressure. At midnight the telegraph brings to the editorial room news that demands editorial notice. It may be the death of a prominent citizen whose life and works demand conspicuous mention. It may be an appalling calamity or a new question in politics or a new discovery in science or art. No matter what the subject is it demands full investigation and full discussion. The pressman is thundering for his forms and in an hour or two the subject must be read up, written up, and the article set up and printed for careful perusal by a thousand critical eyes at the morning table. Of course an article written under such pressure exhausts the writer more than four times the work under more favorable circumstances.

We are all living at a rapid pace. We travel by steam, eat by railroad time, print by steam, read and write at high pressure and die at a premature age. We have many warnings that such fast living is telling fearfully upon us as a people, carrying off our greatest men just as their matured minds and ripe experience make them most valuable, but we heed not. We continue the break neck pace and suppose we ought to congratulate ourselves if it does not grow worse.

OUR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

We are glad to note that Senator Morrill, of Vermont, was so prompt to call up in the Senate his bill to donate additional public lands to the Agricultural Colleges of the various States. The probabilities are that a bill granting enough land to make the donation to each College one million acres, will pass. In no better way could the Government encourage the work of education. It is a work of such importance as to be engaging to-day the time and unceasing labors of the best minds and purest men of the nation. Especially to the Southern States is this bill of deep importance. If it becomes a law as proposed, it will establish in each one of the Southern States an educational institution with wealth enough to make it a center of an educational influence that will in a few years do more to build up the wealth and morals of the section than any other movement the Government could inaugurate. The South needs this help, especially, and we know Southern Representatives in both branches of Congress will earnestly favor it. One provision should be incorporated in the grant and that is, that so far as possible the fund arising from the sale of the lands should be so invested and deposited as to amply insure its being used for the purpose designated, and that its application should be free from political and sectarian influences.

EDWIN FORREST.

Edwin Forrest, the greatest tragedian of the age, who fell dead yesterday morning in Philadelphia, while dressing himself, was born in that city in 1806. He has been on the stage fifty-four years, having commenced performing when he was only twelve years old. In his fifteenth year he made his debut at the old South street theatre in Philadelphia. He has remained on the stage ever since, gaining a distinction that is seldom accorded to men of his or any other profession. Since 1858 he has not been so actively or constantly engaged, his entertainments partaking of the character of "readings" rather than theatrical performances. His fame is not confined to this country by any means. Three times he has visited England and his performances were received there with the same favor as in his native land. In the personation of characters demanding robust action and physical power, he, in his palmy days, was without an equal.

We give in another column a long list of persons whose claims have been favorably passed by the Commission and so reported to Congress. There is little doubt but that they will all be allowed by Congress at its present session and provision made for payment. In the list we notice the names of very many East Tennesseans to whom this allowance will be very welcome.

A FRIEND of public schools has written to the Nashville *Banner* some suggestions as to the system to be inaugurated. We are glad to see that plans are being proposed, for we are satisfied the members of the Assembly, so soon to meet at Nashville, will be glad to have all the information on this important subject that is available. We should adopt the best system within our means. Wild and extravagant plans ought not to be encouraged. The people want public schools, but to subject them at the outset to very high taxes for even such a popular measure would be dangerous.

We believe an efficient system can be secured at a reasonable expense. These are the points to be aimed at. We give below some of the features proposed in the communication referred to and hope it may awaken the friends of the cause to preparing for submission to the Legislature their suggestions as to the legislation required.

OFFICERS.

1. A State Superintendent—This officer should have an ample salary, say \$8,000 a year, with good clerical and office assistants. He should be elected for two years by a joint convention of the Legislature, and should give bonds for the faithful discharge of his duty. He should have oversight over the schools of the State, make annual report to the General Assembly, and in every respect be the best man in the State for the office.

2. Board of Education—This board should be composed of the Governor, Comptroller, Treasurer, State Superintendent, the Speaker of each branch of the General Assembly, together with the committees on education from the two Houses.

The Board should audit the accounts of the State Superintendent, decide upon questions and appeals referred to them by the Superintendent, and co-operate with the Superintendent in promoting the cause of education in the State.

3. County Superintendents—These should be appointed by the Board of Education for the first term, and thereafter be elected by the people of the respective counties. They should serve two years and until their successors are qualified.

The County Superintendents should be to the county what the State Superintendent is to the State.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS.

4. Each civil district should be divided into sub-districts, according to the necessities of the case, and each sub-district should have three directors, to be elected by the people of the district for three years, one being chosen each year. These Directors, in conjunction with the County Superintendent, should regulate the schools of the sub-district. The directors of the district should report to the County Superintendent; the County Superintendent to the State Superintendent, and the State Superintendent to the General Assembly.

FUNDS.

In providing funds we come to the real difficulties of the school question; but funds must be provided. I would do it in this way:

STATE FUNDS.

1. The interest of the irreducible fund. As the school fund is about \$1,500,000, the interest would amount to about \$90,000.
2. Property given by deed for school purposes.
3. Proceeds of escheats, or lands bought in for taxes.
4. A fifty cents poll tax.
5. A levy of fifteen cents upon each one hundred dollars of taxable property throughout the State.

COUNTY FUNDS.

1. To be spent in the county where raised.
2. The levy of a tax upon the county, sufficient to carry on the schools at least four months in the year.
3. A county poll tax of fifty cents.
4. Dog tax and taxes on privileges, etc.

DISTRICT FUNDS.

The school district should be allowed to tax itself for school purposes. This is unconstitutional, I know, but that is so much worse for the constitution. The friend of education should not rest until the district is allowed to tax itself for school purposes.

PETITION FOR SCHOOLS.

Several friends of the school cause have suggested that we print the outlines of a general petition for a general school law and urge upon the friends of public schools in every county the propriety of procuring the signatures to the petitions of the best men to be found. We give below a form which can be copied off on paper ready for signatures. Will not some school man in every civil district see that this petition is signed and handed to the legislator elect for presentation to the Legislature?

To the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee:

The undersigned petitioners, citizens of the county of _____, believing the education of the people to be the best safeguard for civil liberty and a free government and the best means known to promote general prosperity and happiness, respectfully petition your Honorable Body to provide a State system of public schools, which, by imposing a reasonable tax shall give us good public schools in every county in Tennessee. The details of the system and the rate of taxation we leave to your judgment. Believing the time is at hand when prompt measures should be taken to remove from the character of our State the reproach cast upon it by the census return of the General Government, which places it second in the Union on the roll of illiteracy, we hereby promise our hearty support and endorsement in all reasonable efforts to give the children of the State free education.

Important Opinion of the Attorney General.

Attorney General Hoiskell has decided that the Comptroller shall move on any tax collector's bond on the first of January of each year, and that the "two years" allowed the collector by law is only intended as time within which he may settle with those who have been delinquent in paying their taxes to him. While it is perfectly proper that every provision should be made for the prompt collection of all taxes, it would seem that this is a rather severe construction of the reading of the law.